May

Office of the American Anti Slavery Society
No 143 Naſsau St. New York

To the friends of freedom in the United States.—

Dear Friends—

At a late meeting of the American Society in Philada. a committee was appointed to mature a plan of action for the relief of its treasury from debt, & the restoration of its affairs to a sound financial condition. Their report, signed by Sidney Howard Gay, Chairmn. has already been published in the Standard. It shows the injustice of continuing our operations at the expense of those to whom our obligations are due. We commend it to the attentive perusal of every member & friend of the Amn Socy.

In furtherance of that report, this circular is addreſsed to the friends of freedom throughout the country, with earnest solicitation for their active cooperation in the measure now proposed.

Our operations have been, & continue to be sustained, only by one member of the Executive Committee pledging himself personally for the principal liabilities incurred. The Society has uniformly & unanimously voted that its exertions should be continued.— The time has arrived when those exertions must be sustained by the body of its friends, or they must cease. The responsibility so long imposed on an individual, ought to cease. If abolitionists think it of importance to have the Society, its office, & its preſs preserved, they must come to the rescue; or, if they do not desire this, but simply to be just & pay the debts already contracted by their own authority, they cannot & must not hesitate for a moment to raise the sum required to overcome the present emergency. Five Thousand dolls, will relieve us of all our debts, & carry us through the year. If the Society could have now, an annual income equal to the contribution of single States to its treasury, in former years, its affairs would be placed in a most happy & triumphant posture. Its debt is Two Thousand seven hundred dolls. besides Twelve hundred dolls for un-

-adjusted claims of old agencies - total, Thirty Nine hundred dolls.

There never was more need of unfaltering & energetic effort than at this moment. The important breach which has lately been made in the enemy's first line of defense, affords new & animating hope, & should excite us to corresponding action. We *must* preſs vigorously onward. Shall the means be *forthcoming*? Shall the laborer be paid the wages he has already earned, *trusting to the justice of abolitionists*, or, *will they imitate slaveholders & leave his labor unrequited*!

The measures now in force by the Amn Society are such as should command support without respect of party, sect, or section. They are neceſsarily conducted on a *very* limited scale compared with past years. The Ex: Committee, had they been governed by the expreſsion of the Society at its several last Annual Meetings, might have greatly extended their operations; but a just regard for obligations already incurred, & the certainty that such extension would involve the Society in overwhelming embarraſsments, appears to them good ground for pursuing their present course. Their efforts are strenuously exerted to prevent the increase of debt; but they cannot do even this, without speedy & effectual aid. It is neceſsary that we should act in concert. If each will do what lies in his power, we are confident that this attempt to raise funds will succeed. Let there be no waiting, one for another, but let every individual to whom this circular may be sent, begin immediately to solicit contributions; or, let committees be appointed, in populous districts, to enter vigorously into the plan. Nothing short of this prompt action can enable us to continue our operations, or redee us from the discredit & disgrace of withholding the wages of the laborer.

We shall hope to receive, by mail or otherwise, such collections as you may succeed in obtaining, by the first of March next ; but let not your efforts cease with a single remittance - we entreat you in t name of justice, to persevere — follow up the measure with diligence & remit to us, for the payment of your own debts, until the last farthing is honestly paid.

Enclose to "Isaac T Hopper, Treasurer No 143 Nassau St. New York."

Signed on behalf of the American Antislavery Society —

David Lee Child
Cor. Sec'y of the Society.

Sydney Howard Gay. Chn of Finance Comee
I S Gibbons Chn. of Executive Comee

Revd. Saml. May —

Dear Sir —

I would call your attention & that of ye friends in your place to ye above Circular, as to ye condition of ye Am. A. S. Socy. If we value that organization — as all I trust do — it beho us, to give some testimony of that value in ye present emergency. There is, I trust, no necessity of my urging to action by ye addition of a single word to ye Circular itself.

Trusting that ye 'Standard' will soon report a donation from Leicester, I remain Sir, respectfly

Yr Obt Servt. Sydney Howard Gay —

Hingham
Feby. 5th 1847 —

Single

HINGHAM
FEB
7
MAS.

10

Revd Saml May—

Leicester—

Mass—

[illegible]